

Traffic Safety Facts

Crash•Stats

Distribution of Passenger Fatalities in Crashes Involving Young (15-20) Drivers

In 2004, 8,738 people were killed in crashes involving young drivers. Of these, 3,620 (41%) were the young drivers themselves, 2,391 (27%) were passengers of young drivers, and 2,727 (31%) were occupants of other vehicles, nonoccupants and occupants of vehicles not in transport. Among the 2,391 passengers killed in vehicles driven by young drivers, 1,523 (64%) were passengers in the same age group. Thus, of all the people killed in crashes involving young drivers, a majority (5,143 or 59%) were 15- to 20-year-olds.

In 2004, young drivers accounted for 6.3 percent of total licensed drivers according to the Federal Highway Administration, whereas young drivers accounted for 14 percent of the total drivers involved in fatal crashes. Table 1 shows five-year trend data of fatalities in crashes involving young drivers by age group and fatality type. Table 2 overleaf shows fatalities in crashes involving 15- to 20-year-old drivers by person type and State for 2004. The breakdown of passengers by age group is shown, both number and percent.

These data are from NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), which annually collects data on fatal crashes from the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. FARS data are made available by the NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA).

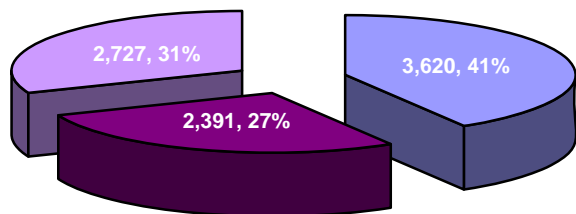
Table 1

Fatalities in Crashes Involving a 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver by Person Type and Year

Year	Young Driver (Age 15-20)	Passenger of Young Driver, by Age					All Others	Total
		<15	15-20	>20	Unknown	Total		
2000	3,621	308	1,629	589	9	2,535	2,941	9,097
2001	3,617	284	1,615	623	7	2,529	2,918	9,064
2002	3,838	274	1,679	604	8	2,565	2,848	9,251
2003	3,675	297	1,522	576	4	2,399	2,653	8,727
2004	3,620	312	1,523	548	8	2,391	2,727	8,738

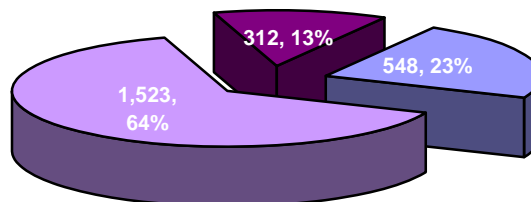
Source: NCSA, FARS 2000-2003 (Final), 2004 (ARF)

Chart 1: People Killed in Crashes Involving a Young Driver in 2004



■ Young Drivers ■ Passengers ■ All Others

Chart 2: Passenger Fatalities in a Vehicle Driven by a Young Driver in 2004



■ Under 15 ■ 15-20 ■ 21 & Older

Definitions: Passengers of young drivers are the people who were traveling in the vehicle with the young driver at the time of the crash; all others are occupants of other vehicles, and nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists).

For questions regarding the above reported data, contact Cherian Varghese at 202-366-1114 or Umesh G. Shankar at 202-366-5558. This issue of Crash•Stats and other general information on highway traffic safety may be accessed by Internet users at: www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html

Table 2
Fatalities in 2004 in Crashes Involving a 15-20 Year Old Driver by Person Type and State

State	Young Driver	Passenger of Young Driver, by Age					All Others	Total
		<15 (%)	15-20 (%)	21+ (%)	Unk.	Total (%)		
Alabama	108	10 (14)	45 (62)	17 (24)	0	72 (100)	78	258
Alaska	6	0 (0)	4 (100)	0 (0)	0	4 (100)	7	17
Arizona	83	6 (9)	38 (56)	23 (34)	1	68 (100)	76	227
Arkansas	64	8 (19)	25 (58)	10 (23)	0	43 (100)	45	152
California	278	32 (13)	159 (66)	50 (21)	0	241 (100)	248	767
Colorado	59	5 (9)	35 (66)	13 (25)	0	53 (100)	58	170
Connecticut	28	4 (24)	8 (47)	5 (29)	0	17 (100)	12	57
Delaware	16	4 (44)	5 (56)	0 (0)	0	9 (100)	11	36
Dist of Columbia	3	0 (0)	3 (100)	0 (0)	0	3 (100)	7	13
Florida	235	20 (15)	76 (56)	40 (29)	0	136 (100)	241	612
Georgia	126	15 (19)	43 (54)	20 (25)	1	79 (100)	124	329
Hawaii	13	1 (13)	3 (38)	4 (50)	0	8 (100)	12	33
Idaho	21	2 (11)	6 (32)	11 (58)	0	19 (100)	12	52
Illinois	95	8 (11)	50 (71)	12 (17)	0	70 (100)	90	255
Indiana	98	9 (14)	46 (71)	10 (15)	0	65 (100)	54	217
Iowa	31	8 (32)	12 (48)	5 (20)	0	25 (100)	26	82
Kansas	48	5 (25)	13 (65)	2 (10)	0	20 (100)	30	98
Kentucky	95	4 (8)	33 (67)	12 (24)	0	49 (100)	56	200
Louisiana	80	7 (14)	35 (69)	9 (18)	0	51 (100)	67	198
Maine	22	1 (7)	12 (80)	2 (13)	0	15 (100)	14	51
Maryland	54	3 (11)	23 (82)	2 (7)	0	28 (100)	29	111
Massachusetts	40	3 (10)	23 (77)	4 (13)	0	30 (100)	27	97
Michigan	104	11 (14)	55 (71)	12 (15)	0	78 (100)	79	261
Minnesota	57	6 (15)	20 (51)	12 (31)	1	39 (100)	47	143
Mississippi	95	10 (20)	26 (51)	15 (29)	0	51 (100)	61	207
Missouri	117	9 (14)	45 (71)	9 (14)	0	63 (100)	64	244
Montana	23	1 (8)	11 (85)	1 (8)	0	13 (100)	6	42
Nebraska	27	1 (5)	14 (70)	5 (25)	0	20 (100)	20	67
Nevada	22	1 (7)	10 (71)	3 (21)	0	14 (100)	24	60
New Hampshire	18	0 (0)	5 (45)	6 (55)	0	11 (100)	13	42
New Jersey	48	0 (0)	17 (71)	7 (29)	0	24 (100)	40	112
New Mexico	39	1 (4)	19 (79)	4 (17)	0	24 (100)	28	91
New York	119	3 (5)	52 (80)	9 (14)	1	65 (100)	88	272
North Carolina	157	10 (13)	46 (58)	23 (29)	1	80 (100)	114	351
North Dakota	8	1 (33)	1 (33)	1 (33)	0	3 (100)	3	14
Ohio	123	15 (17)	54 (61)	18 (20)	1	88 (100)	86	297
Oklahoma	73	4 (7)	36 (67)	14 (26)	0	54 (100)	65	192
Oregon	40	2 (9)	15 (65)	6 (26)	0	23 (100)	29	92
Pennsylvania	139	12 (15)	60 (75)	8 (10)	0	80 (100)	104	323
Rhode Island	8	0 (0)	7 (70)	3 (30)	0	10 (100)	2	20
South Carolina	80	7 (15)	29 (60)	12 (25)	0	48 (100)	45	173
South Dakota	13	3 (25)	6 (50)	3 (25)	0	12 (100)	9	34
Tennessee	134	19 (24)	41 (53)	18 (23)	0	78 (100)	62	274
Texas	275	31 (13)	135 (57)	69 (29)	1	236 (100)	241	752
Utah	15	0 (0)	8 (62)	5 (38)	0	13 (100)	29	57
Vermont	11	0 (0)	6 (100)	0 (0)	0	6 (100)	6	23
Virginia	94	4 (7)	39 (71)	12 (22)	0	55 (100)	50	199
Washington	51	2 (5)	31 (76)	7 (17)	1	41 (100)	28	120
West Virginia	38	0 (0)	11 (85)	2 (15)	0	13 (100)	14	65
Wisconsin	79	4 (13)	19 (63)	7 (23)	0	30 (100)	41	150
Wyoming	10	0 (0)	8 (57)	6 (43)	0	14 (100)	5	29
NATIONAL	3,620	312 (13)	1,523 (64)	548 (23)	8	2,391 (100)	2,727	8,738
Puerto Rico	39	3 (14)	14 (67)	4 (19)	0	21 (100)	39	99
Source: NCSA, FARS 2004(ARF)								Unk. - Unknown